The problem of juveniles and the young is not something new but the magnitude and dimension it has acquired certainly call for a serious attention. Hitherto, no national characteristics, no political regime, no system of law, police, justice, punishment or treatment has rendered any country exempt from the problem of the young. We are in fact living through a time when, more than ever before, there can be no single strategy suggesting how to tackle delinquency and its border line areas. It will be wishful thinking to extricate this problem from our social scene. However, it is worth making efforts to keep this ever-increasing problem within socially tolerable limits. This is possible only if we constantly remain in touch with the working of our juvenile justice delivery system, and a periodical evaluation of different variables is undertaken in order to find out adequacies and inadequacies in their normative, administrative and functional aspects. 'Experience is the greatest teacher', so goes the saying. Its validity is perhaps much more in the juvenile justice system.

If juvenile delinquency and the problem of neglected juveniles continue unabated and major components of juvenile justice system continue to operate disjointedly, a disaster of major proportion would be a virtual certainty. The control and prevention of the problems of juvenile
in our fast developing society should therefore be our major national concern.

It is perhaps this concern, besides the pitiable condition of "street children", that has prompted me to pick up this theme for the present research work. This study, by its very design, requires intensive and extensive field work. Accordingly as many as 58 tables have been embedded at appropriate places in the present work.

All along when this work was in progress, I was fortunate in being able to discuss the juvenile justice problems with a number of individuals who are highly knowledgeable about the practical as well as substantive aspects covered in this study. The prompt and necessary permission by the Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court, Chandigarh, Secretary Social Welfare Punjab, and Inspector General Prisons, Punjab to have an access to otherwise inaccessible materials not only provided the moral booster but also exhilarated the tone of my work.

Access to the records of the Police, Probation Officers and Correctional Officials invariably depended upon continual and renewed personal efforts with individual officers, despite the official approval. Nevertheless, the help was indispensable for the completion of this work. I must acknowledge the fact that they allowed
me access to places, materials and records, never minding the adverse or negative inferences that might be drawn. For this I must record my most sincere appreciation and also an apology if inadvertently any injury is caused by an adverse conclusion drawn in the processing of the information.

No work of this length is complete without debts of gratitude which I feel honoured to record.

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Very many other people helped me directly and indirectly in the completion of this study. In particular my own colleagues in the Department of Laws, some of whom had been my teachers, would readily recognize the impact of their influence on the text of these pages. I do acknowledge their invaluable assistance without, of course, specifically mentioning their names.
The most important and yet inarticulate category of persons who deserve my sincere gratitude is that of the silent young boys and girls for whom the juvenile justice system has been designed. It is because of their confidence reposed in me that I could be more objective in reaching at many of my conclusions. Their help in rendering the much needed objectivity is hereby sincerely acknowledged.

Most sincerely I must express my gratitude to my gracious wife, who always chose to render every possible help with a smile which made attainable what, in moments of anxiety, seemed unattainable.

CHANDIGARH.
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RAJINDER SINGH GREWAL
1. Special Homes: Hoshiarpur; Amritsar (not yet established)
2. Juvenile Homes: Hoshiarpur; Jallandhar; and Rajpura (Distt. Patiala; yet to be established)
3. Juvenile Courts: Ludhiana; Jallandhar; Amritsar (No Court has yet been established).
4. Juvenile Welfare Boards: Patiala; Ropar; Jallandhar and Gurdaspur (not yet established)
5. After Care Organisation: Amritsar and Ludhiana.
6. Observation Homes: (I) For Delinquents: Ludhiana; Bathinda; Amritsar and Jallandhar (not yet established)
   (II) For Neglected Juveniles: Ropar; Patiala; Jallandhar and Gurdaspur.